

The following motion passed at Faculty Senate meeting #232 on May 7, 2018

## MOTION

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The UAF Faculty Senate moves to conduct a faculty-wide survey in early Fall 2018, no later than October 1, measuring faculty sentiment to adopt a Carnegie Hour course schedule for the 2019-2020 academic year for which the standard course blocks will be of either 50 or 75 minutes duration.

## EFFECTIVE

Immediately

## RATIONALE

The University of Alaska Board of Regents adopted policy in Spring 2014 (amended in Fall 2015):

### **P10.04.100. Academic Calendar**

A common academic calendar for all university campuses will provide for a fall and spring semester of not less than fifteen weeks of instruction, which may include examination days; start and end dates, recesses, and daily schedules.

The original policy adopted in Spring 2014 contained the following trailing verbiage that was deleted per suggestion of the Provosts<sup>1</sup>:

... and daily schedules, i.e., course blocks, will be common among all campuses. Class schedules must provide for a minimum of 800 minutes of instruction per credit hour.

At present, the semester start and end dates, break periods, add/drop and fee payment dates across the University of Alaska Anchorage, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and the University of Alaska Southeast are now aligned. The course blocks, however, are not yet aligned. Alignment of course blocks helps to facilitate cross-campus course sharing and other dedicated synchronous activities. This motion continues UAF's initiative to implement the intent of BoR Policy.

Nationwide, most universities use 50 minute and 75 minute course blocks. See [AACRAO March 2016 60 Second Survey Results](#), where for undergraduate courses 81% of institutions use 50 minute course blocks, 18% use 55 minute course blocks. (60 minute course blocks were not explicitly listed.)

In particular, UAA uses 50 minute course blocks. Aligning course blocks between UAA and UAF would enable more sharing of courses via synchronous video, which has been

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<sup>1</sup> UA Associate Vice President Saichi Oba, *Re: UA Common Calendar Update*, Memorandum to UA President James Johnsen, 28 August 2015.

extensively used in Engineering; the limiting factor is currently the minimal number of matching course blocks. Currently no course times exactly match across campuses, but start times at 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at least begin at the same time. If UAF used 50 minute blocks, the TR schedules would align perfectly with no additional work.

Switching from 60 to 50 minute blocks would allow one more course period per day, which could be used either for dedicated cross-campus meeting.

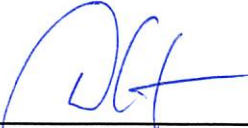
Because of the common course start times, UAF's 60 minute course blocks mean UAF teaches many more contact minutes than are required (16% more). With the ongoing effort to align GER courses, it is difficult to argue that aligned courses are equivalent when a course at one university meets for a significantly different amount of time than the equivalent course at another university.

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Chris Fallen, UAF Faculty Senate President

The Chancellor:  Acknowledges  Vetoes



Daniel M. White, UAF Chancellor

Date: 5/18/18